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Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know, Sir, whether tenders were recently invited for the work and if so whether they were cancelled? "

The Hon. Sri K. RAJARAM :—" For want of funds the work was not taken up."

Grant of licences for tapping sweet toddy in Erode taluk.

* 165 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of licences for tapping sweet toddy issued in Erode taluk; and

(*b*) the number of tappers who have not received licences so far?

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" (*a*) Nine thousand six hundred and sixty-two licences from 1st October 1952 to 30th September 1953.

" (*b*) There was no case of a tapper who applied for and did not receive a licence."

Sri N. K. PALANISAMI :—" ஆகஸ்ட் மாதம் 30-ம் தேதி லைசன்ஸ் கொடுக்க வேண்டியதாக இருக்க, இந்த கோவாபரேடிவ் டிபார்ட்மெண்ட் நாலு மாதங்களாக ஏன் லைசன்ஸ் கொடுக்கவில்லை? அதனால் எவ்வளவோ மரமேறிகள் கைது செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இதை சர்க்கார் கவனித்து அதற்கு வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா ? "

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" I am not aware of it. If there is any specific case, it will be considered."

Provision of covered drains in Kozhikode Municipality.

* 166 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have any scheme for the provision of covered drains in Kozhikode Municipality?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The answer is in the affirmative."

Dispute between the workers and the management of Messrs. India Cements, Limited.

* 167 *Q.*—Sri M. PALANIYANDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any matter of dispute between the workers and the management of Messrs. India Cements, Limited, Thalayuthu was referred to the Industrial Tribunal; and

(*b*) if so, whether the award of the Tribunal has been published?

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THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The dispute between the workers and management of the India Cements, Limited, Thalaiyuthu, Tirunelveli district, was referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Madurai, for adjudication in October 1952. As the reference for adjudication was subsequently cancelled in November 1952, the Tribunal did not pass any award."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" முதலில் தொழிலாளர் தகராறை மத்தியஸ்தர்களுக்கு அனுப்பிய பிறகு ஏன் அவற்றை ரத்து செய்தார்கள் ? அதற்கு பதில் கூறுவாரா ?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The dispute was first raised by Trade Union No. 1319. Subsequently it was brought to the notice of the Government that this was a very minor Union and that Union No. 1310 represented the major Union and in the interest of industrial peace it was thought desirable to accept the decision of the major Union in this matter."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" இந்தத் தகராறுகளைக் கிளப்பிய சங்கம் இருக்க எந்த ஸ்தாபன தொழிலாளிகள் பிரதிநிதித்துவம் வகுக்கிறது என்பதை நிர்ணயிக்க ரகஸ்யமான முறையில் வோட்டு எடுப்பதற்கு தயாராக இருக்கிறதா ?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, we have official records showing the membership of the various unions and on the basis of these records we decide which is the major Union."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" May I know, Sir, under what provision of law the reference to the Tribunal was cancelled? As far as I am aware, there is no such provision. Once the matter is referred to the Industrial Tribunal, it alone can possibly come to a decision after making a proper enquiry."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" This question was contested and it was even suggested that those who were dissatisfied could go to a court and file a writ petition, but they were advised that they had no such case and that the Government had a right to decide which Union should be supported. Therefore equity and justice showed that our course of action was correct."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" முதலாளிகள் தாங்களாகவே சொந்தப் பணத்தைக் கொடுத்து அவர்களுக்குக் கையாள்களாகிய ஒரு ஸ்தாபனத்தின் அங்கத்தினர்களின் பிரதிநிதித்துவத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொள்வதுதான் சர்க்காருடைய கொள்கையா ?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, I deny the allegations made by the Leader of the Opposition. I may add that such allegations can be made even against other Unions."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" இப்பொழுதாவது ரகசியமாக வோட்டு எடுத்து அதன் பிரகாரம் முடிவை ஏற்றுக்கொள்வதற்கு தயாராக இருக்கிறதா ?" 12–10 p.m.

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" That question does not arise, since we are perfectly aware that the records of the Labour Commissioner are correct. If the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is going to contest it, it is open to him to submit that these records are wrong, and then we shall take action."

Issue of liquor permits.

* 168 *Q*.—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many liquor permits were issued to individuals in the State during the years 1952 and 1953;

(*b*) how many of them were Indians; and

(*c*) whether there are any women permit-holders among Indians?

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" (*a*) Two thousand one hundred and seventy-four permits during 1952 and 1,590 permits up to 31st October in 1953;

" (*b*) Four hundred and sixteen during 1952 and 360 up to 31st October in 1943;

" (*c*) Twenty-nine during 1952 and 19 up to 31st October in 1953."

Sri A. RATNAM :—" எத்தகைய அடிப்படையின் கீழும் இல்லாது மது பெர்மிட் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. மாதர்கள் பிரசவ காலத்தில் அவர்களுக்கு மது அளிப்பது போன்ற தனி திட்டம் உண்டா ? "

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" I am not aware of it."

Levy of surcharge on ryots for the consumption of electricity for agricultural operations.

* 169 *Q*.—Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have ordered recently to levy a surcharge of 10 per cent on the consumption of electrical energy by ryots for agricultural operations; and

(*b*) if so, why?

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) So that the surcharge levied on all consumers of electricity in the State may be brought to a uniform level and as it was felt that the exemption was not really necessary."